GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3327
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
ARAVALLI FORESTRY PROJECT PHASE II
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1.5 lac hectares of degraded/barren forest area of Aravalli Hill range and community lands in Rajasthan have been afforested with people`s active participation and financial assistance from O.E.C.F. (now J.B.I.C.) of Japan;

(b) if so, whether due to sanction imposed by the Government of Japan due to Pokhran nucleartest, the project has not been sanctioned;

(c) if so, whether it is a great setback to afforestation efforts in the State;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken up the issue with J.B.I.C. Japan/the Government of Japan for lifting of sanction so that the phase II Afforestation Project is sanctioned; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Afforestation over 1,51,390 hectares wasteland and community land has been done under Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) assisted Aravalli Afforestation project from 1992-93 to 1999-2000.

(b) to (e)The Aravalli Afforestation project has been sent to Japan Bank for InternationalCooperation (JBIC) through Department of Economic Affairs seeking external assistance for the project. The Project envisages afforestation over 2.265 lakh hectares area. JBIC has not sanctioned any new forestry project including Aravalli Afforestation Project - Phase II from1998 onwards, due to curtailing of Overseas Development Assistance to India.